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Dkt. 2271/75741

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Masanori HIRANO et al.

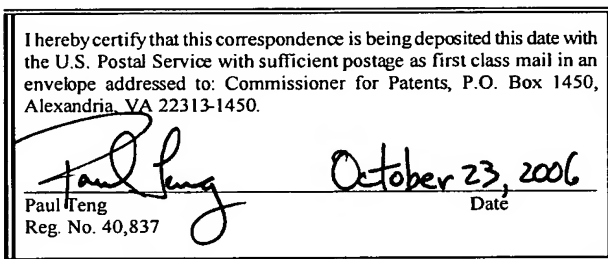
Serial No.: 10/565,136

Int'l Appln. No. PCT/JP2004/011382

Date Filed: January 18, 2006

Int'l Filing Date: 30 July 2004

For: **IMAGE REPRODUCING AND FORMING APPARATUS, PRINTER DRIVE AND DATA PROCESSING APPARATUS**



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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §1.97, Applicant hereby submits this Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the references listed on Form PTO-1449 attached hereto. Copies of the references are also enclosed herewith.

The reference listed on the annexed Form PTO-1449 was cited in an August 16, 2006 official action in connection with a corresponding Japanese patent application. A copy of the August 16, 2006 Japanese official action is enclosed herewith.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in the annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, and that such art be made of record in said application.

The citation of the listed item is not a representation that it constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the item is prior art. The item listed is submitted in good faith, but is not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that

in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular item, it will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

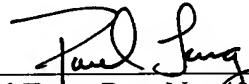
This Information Disclosure is submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3). To the best of Applicants' knowledge, a first Office Action on the merits has not been issued in this application.

Alternatively, Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1).

Applicant hereby states that each item of information contained in the Form PTO-1449 annexed to this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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